

Appendix table 7-20

## Public assessment of benefits and harms of scientific research, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	Benefits strongly outweigh harmful results	Benefits slightly outweigh harmful results	Benefits are about equal to harmful results	Harmful results slightly outweigh benefits	Harmful results strongly outweigh benefits	Don't know
All adults ( <i>n</i> = 1,434)	46	23	14	7	2	8
Sex						
Male ( <i>n</i> = 603)	49	22	14	8	2	6
Female ( <i>n</i> = 831)	42	25	13	6	3	10
Formal education <sup>a</sup>						
<High school ( <i>n</i> = 186)	21	28	19	12	3	16
High school graduate ( <i>n</i> = 443)	33	27	18	8	3	10
Some college ( <i>n</i> = 350)	50	20	12	8	3	7
Baccalaureate ( <i>n</i> = 300)	68	20	7	2	1	2
Graduate/professional degree ( <i>n</i> = 154)	66	21	7	1	2	3
Science/mathematics education <sup>b</sup>						
Low ( <i>n</i> = 454)	36	24	18	10	3	10
Middle ( <i>n</i> = 181)	55	23	10	4	3	5
High ( <i>n</i> = 219)	66	17	10	2	1	4
Family income (quartile) <sup>a</sup>						
Top ( <i>n</i> = 270)	67	17	7	2	*	6
Second ( <i>n</i> = 361)	52	26	13	3	2	5
Third ( <i>n</i> = 291)	40	27	14	10	3	6
Bottom ( <i>n</i> = 368)	28	29	17	16	2	7
Age (years) <sup>a</sup>						
18–24 ( <i>n</i> = 85)	36	29	14	6	2	13
25–34 ( <i>n</i> = 279)	42	25	17	7	1	8
35–44 ( <i>n</i> = 245)	46	23	14	10	4	4
45–54 ( <i>n</i> = 272)	54	19	12	4	4	6
55–64 ( <i>n</i> = 261)	51	23	11	7	1	7
≥65 ( <i>n</i> = 284)	43	24	14	5	3	12
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) <sup>c</sup>						
Top ( <i>n</i> = 378)	67	17	7	3	1	4
Second ( <i>n</i> = 416)	52	26	11	5	2	5
Third ( <i>n</i> = 355)	35	27	17	10	3	9
Bottom ( <i>n</i> = 285)	22	24	21	12	4	16

\* = &lt;0.5% responded

<sup>a</sup>Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.<sup>b</sup>Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Questions asked of 956 survey respondents; categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.<sup>c</sup>Quartiles based on percentage of nine questions in trend factual knowledge of science scale answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for questions.

NOTES: Responses to *People have frequently noted that scientific research has produced benefits and harmful results. Would you say that, on balance, the benefits of scientific research have outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results of scientific research been greater than its benefits?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2010).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2012